

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and the need for a Fairness in the Media Act.

This is not the first time they have pre-empted programming in favor of promoting their own point of view. We remember well when they refused to air the Nightline episode where the names of the fallen were said. How unpatriotic of them - and, sadly, how predictable.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

We expect to see a renewal of the Fairness in the Media Act to prevent this type of media abuse. We also expect to see at least the same amount of concern for this as you have paid to Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction". Thank you.